

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A plastic article comprising:

at least one of an ESD layer or [[and]] EMI-shielding layer having a polymer matrix and bundle drawn stainless steel fibers ~~obtained by the bundled drawing of stainless steel wires~~ wherein said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers have an equivalent diameter being more than 0.5 μ m, said equivalent diameter being less than 100 μ m, said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers having a composition comprising iron and the following components expressed in percent by weight :

C \leq 0.05 %,

Mn \leq 5%,

Si \leq 2 %,

8 \leq Ni \leq 12 %,

15 % \leq Cr \leq 20 %,

Mo \leq 3 %,

Cu \leq 4 %,

N \leq 0.05 %,

S \leq 0.03 %,

P \leq 0.05 %;

wherein said composition satisfies the following relationship:

$$MI = 551 - 462 \times (C \% + N \%) - 9.2 \times Si \% - 20 \times Mn \% - 13.7 \times Cr \% - 29 \times (Ni \% + Cu \%) - 18.5 \times Mo \% , \text{ said } MI \leq -40.$$

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) A plastic article according to claim 1, said MI being less than -55.

4. (Currently Amended) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein the volume of said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers is more than or equal to 0.1% volume of said plastic article.

5. (Currently Amended) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein the volume of said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers is less than or equal to 5 vol% of said plastic article.
6. (Currently Amended) A plastic article according to claim 5, wherein the volume of said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers is less than or equal to 2.5 vol% of said plastic article.
7. (Currently Amended) A plastic article according to claim 6, wherein the volume of said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers is less than or equal to 1.5 vol% of said plastic article.
8. (Currently Amended) A plastic article according to claim 7, wherein the volume of said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers is less than or equal to 1 vol% of said plastic article.
9. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein said plastic article has a thickness T, said T being less than or equal to 5 mm.
10. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 9, wherein T is less than or equal to 3 mm.
11. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 10, wherein T is less than or equal to 1 mm.
12. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein said polymer matrix is a thermo-set polymer.
13. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein said polymer matrix is a thermoplastic polymer.
14. (Previously presented) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein said polymer matrix is selected from polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polystyrene (PS), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyethylene napthalate (PEN), polybutene terephthalate (PBT) polyvinylchloride (PVC), polyamide (PA), polyester (PES), polyimide (PI), polycarbonate (PC), styrene acrylonitril (SAN), acrylonitril-butadiene-styrene (ABS), thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU), thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO), thermoplastic copolyetherester or a copolymer or a mixture thereof.

15. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein said plastic article has a shielding effectiveness of more than 5 dB.
16. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein said plastic article has a shielding effectiveness of more than 20 dB.
17. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein said plastic article has a shielding effectiveness of more than 30 dB.
18. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 7, wherein said plastic article has a shielding effectiveness of more than 5 dB.
19. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 7, wherein said plastic article has a shielding effectiveness of more than 20 dB.
20. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 7, wherein said plastic article has a shielding effectiveness of more than 30 dB.
21. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 10, wherein said plastic article has a shielding effectiveness of more than 5 dB.
22. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 10, wherein said plastic article has a shielding effectiveness of more than 20 dB.
23. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 10, wherein said plastic article has a shielding effectiveness of more than 30 dB.
24. (Currently Amended) A plastic article according to claim 1, said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers having a fracture strength, said fracture strength having a standard deviation of less than 180MPa.
25. (Currently Amended) A plastic article according to claim 1, said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers having a strain at fracture, said strain at fracture having a standard deviation of less than 0.15%.

26. (Previously presented) A plastic article according to claim 24, said fracture strength being more than 2000MPa.

27. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 25, said strain at fracture being more than 1%.

28. (Currently Amended) A plastic article according to claim 1, whereby the diffusion of the individual elements of the matrix material, used on said stainless steel wires during said bundled drawing, is limited to less than 1 at % at a depth of 100 nm below the surface of said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers.

29. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 28, whereby said matrix material comprises a metal or a metal alloy.

30. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 29, whereby said metal or metal alloy comprises copper, iron or a copper or iron alloy.

31. (Currently Amended) A thread comprising an impregnating resin and bundle drawn stainless steel fibers ~~obtained by the bundled drawing of stainless steel wires~~ wherein said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers have an equivalent diameter being more than $0.5\mu\text{m}$, said equivalent diameter being less than $100\mu\text{m}$, said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers having a composition comprising iron and the following components expressed in percent by weight:
Mn $\leq 5\%$,
Si $\leq 2\%$,
8 \leq Ni $\leq 12\%$,
15 % \leq Cr $\leq 20\%$,
Mo $\leq 3\%$,
Cu $\leq 4\%$,
N $\leq 0.05\%$,
S $\leq 0.03\%$,
P $\leq 0.05\%$;

wherein said composition satisfies the following relationship:

MI = $551 - 462 \times (C\% + N\%) - 9.2 \times Si\% - 20 \times Mn\% - 13.7 \times Cr\% - 29 \times (Ni\% + Cu\%) - 18.5 \times Mo\%$, said MI ≤ -40 .

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously presented) A thread according to claim 31, said MI being less than -55.

34. (Previously presented) A thread according to claim 31, wherein said impregnating resin provides between 1 %vol and 99 %vol of said thread.

35. (Original) A thread according to claim 31, wherein said impregnating resin is polyvinylalcohol (PVA), polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polystyrene (PS), polyvinylchloride (PVC), polyester (PES), polyacrylate, polymethacrylate or a copolymer of these polymers.

36. (Currently Amended) A grain comprising an impregnating resin and bundle drawn stainless steel fibers ~~obtained by the bundled drawing of stainless steel wires~~ wherein said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers have an equivalent diameter being more than $0.5\mu m$, said equivalent diameter being less than $100\mu m$, said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers having a composition comprising iron and the following components expressed in percent by weight:

C $\leq 0.05\%$,

Mn $\leq 5\%$,

Si $\leq 2\%$,

Ni $\leq 12\%$,

Cr $15\% \leq Cr \leq 20\%$,

Mo $\leq 3\%$,

Cu $\leq 4\%$,

N $\leq 0.05\%$,

S $\leq 0.03\%$,

P $\leq 0.05\%$;

wherein said composition satisfies the following relationship:

MI = 551 – 462 x(C % + N %) – 9.2x Si % -20 x Mn % - 13.7 x Cr % -29 x (Ni % + Cu %) – 18.5 x Mo %, said MI ≤ -40.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously presented) A grain according to claim 36, said MI being less than -55.

39. (Previously presented) A grain according to claim 36, wherein said impregnating resin provides between 1 %vol and 99 %vol of said grain.

40. (Original) A grain according to claim 36, wherein said grain having a length ranging between 0.5 mm and 12 mm.

41. (Original) A grain according to claim 36, wherein said grain having a length ranging between 3 mm and 6 mm.

42. (Original) A grain according to claim 36, wherein said impregnating resin is polyvinylalcohol (PVA), polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polystyrene (PS), polyvinylchloride (PVC), polyester (PES), polyacrylate, polymethacrylate or a copolymer of these polymers.

43. (Currently Amended) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein said bundle drawn stainless steel fiber has undergone a reduction with a deformation ϵ of at least 4.5.

44. (Currently Amended) A plastic article according to claim 43, wherein said bundle drawn stainless steel fiber has undergone a reduction with a deformation ϵ of at least 4.8.

45. (Currently Amended) A plastic article according to claim 43, wherein said bundle drawn stainless steel fiber has undergone a reduction with a deformation ϵ of at least 5.2.

46. (Previously presented) A plastic article according to claim 1, said MI ≤ -60.

47. (Previously presented) A plastic article according to claim 1, said MI = -95.

48. (Previously presented) A plastic article according to claim 1, said MI = -100.

49. (Previously presented) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein said MI is a value that permits a reduction with a deformation of at least 4.5.